

STATE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER
HURRICANE ISIDORE INFORMATION
MISSISSIPPI EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

NEWS



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September 27, 2002

10:40 a.m.

Release # 1

The Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is closely monitoring the damage received across the state as a result of the heavy rainfall and winds associated with Tropical Storm Isidore. The following information is being provided to citizens to aid in their safe response to the damage.

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT TOUR

- Governor Ronnie Musgrove and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director Robert Latham will be touring coastal areas affected by the storm on Friday, September 27, 2002. Governor Musgrove is also scheduled to meet with FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh in Gulfport.

ROAD INFORMATION

- The Highway 43 spur in Pearl River County remains closed due to water.
- One lane of the I-220 southbound ramp to I-20 eastbound in the Jackson (Capital City) area is closed.
- All other state-maintained highways are open.

SHELTERS

- The D'Iberville High School shelter in Harrison County is open this morning, but will close at noon. The Biloxi Community Center at Howard Avenue will serve as a long-term shelter. All other shelters are closed.

FLOODING

- Statewide, immediate flood waters from Tropical Storm Isidore are beginning to recede. State and local officials are continuing to monitor rivers and drainage basins for potential flooding due to run-off.

(more)

"Helping Mississippians in Need is our First Priority"

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(September 27, 2002, continued)

STATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS ACTIVITIES

- The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in Jackson will be shifting its staffing from the emergency response level to a recovery mode at the end of the business day on Friday, September 27, 2002. A contingent will remain in the state headquarters over the weekend to continue monitoring local conditions and to assist local officials in damage assessment activities. Additionally, most staff at the State Hurricane Support Center in Gulfport will also be redeployed; however, a small contingent will remain on the coast over the weekend to help coordinate local disaster assessment. Damage assessment information will be used to identify unmet needs that exceed state and local capabilities and that will require federal assistance to recover. This information will be factored into Governor Ronnie Musgrove's decision regarding a request for a federal declaration of a major disaster.
- The National Guard on the coast will be standing down on Friday and will be redeployed to home duty stations except for ongoing local government support activities.